

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**1.) Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. The Applicants have amended claim 24 to correct informalities unrelated to the Examiner's rejection. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

On Page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-11, 15, 16-17, 19-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson, et al. (US 2003/0084162). The Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons discussed below.

The Examiner has cited paragraphs 23 and 70-71 in Johnson for disclosing a centrally allocated table containing predetermined connection information for an outside-realm node to initiate a communication with an inside-realm node. However, Johnson only shows an address translation table. The Applicant's claimed invention on the other hand allocates to an inside-realm node, an outside-realm gateway address from a pool of gateway addresses and an inside node port number in response to a configuration request initiated from the inside-realm node. The outside-realm gateway address and the inside node port number, in combination with predetermined connection information derivable from the configuration request, define a unique outside-realm gateway state representation that has no counterpart in any existing gateway connection state for the inside-realm node.

Johnson's address translation table fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the claimed invention. This aspect is recited in independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 102 rejection and the allowance of claims 1, 9, 16, and 23 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-11, 15, 17, and 19-20 depend from these base claims and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of the base claims.

Therefore, the allowance of claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-11, 15, 17, and 19-20 is respectfully requested.

**3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

On Page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6, 12, 13, 14, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Alkhatib (US 2002/0184390 A1). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner cited Alkhatib for disclosing the use of socket addresses to make a connection. However, like Johnson, Alkhatib fails to disclose or suggest allocating to an inside-realm node, an outside-realm gateway address from a pool of gateway addresses and an inside node port number in response to a configuration request initiated from the inside-realm node, wherein the outside-realm gateway address and the inside node port number, in combination with predetermined connection information, define a unique outside-realm gateway state representation that has no counterpart in any existing gateway connection state for the inside-realm node.

Thus, the combination of Johnson and Alkhatib fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to base claims 1 and 9. Claims 4-6, 12, 13, and 14 depend from base claims 1 and 9, and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of these base claims. Therefore, the allowance of claims 4-6, 12, 13, and 14 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to correct some informalities unrelated to the Examiner's rejection. Amended claim 24 recites an inside-realm communication terminal that comprises means for requesting, in a modified DNS (Domain Name Server) query, central configuration information for communication with a selected one of the outside-realm hosts; means for receiving a DNS configuration reply including an allocated outside-realm gateway address and an allocated terminal port number, the allocated outside-realm gateway address and the allocated terminal port number being arranged in a dedicated DNS record in the configuration reply; and means for configuring a communication interface according to the outside realm gateway address and the terminal port number.

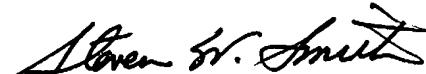
Since Johnson and Alkhatib fail to disclose or suggest any mechanism for sending a DNS configuration reply to the terminal that includes an allocated outside-realm gateway address and an allocated terminal port number, the claimed means for receiving such a DNS configuration reply is also not suggested. Therefore, the allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

**4.) Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-24.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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